

Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission
Attn: John Miller
528 South Fifth St, Suite 209
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear John Miller:

I am writing to you, on behalf of Task Force Team and Deaf community, to express concerns on the selection of the Superintendent Search committee. We are very disappointed to learn that the process of the selection of the committee was biased.

The selection of the superintendent search committee did not include a Deaf person who is an **alumni** of Illinois School for the Deaf Alumni Association (ISDAA), a representative of Illinois Association of the Deaf (IAD), a representative of Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf (JCCD) and a Deaf professional from a well-known agency and/or organization, such as DHS-DRS. Those representatives would have assured that the superintendent search committee do not practice audism and oppression in the selection process.

As you are already aware, Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) has already been suffering from audism and oppression for a long time, it is time to end this practice. Deaf children at ISD have been deprived of their native language, American Sign Language (ASL). We need to assure that they are not deprived any more. This means we must include those representatives listed above in the superintendent search committee.

By including those representatives above will prevent any more of favoritism. No representatives from an oral based philosophy should be on the committee. ISD was established in 1839 to assure Deaf children have full access to communication in education setting and by stating this, ASL was one of the reason for ISD's establishment. There are already mainstream programs in state of Illinois that offer a different education approach, such as oral program. ISD is considered a safe haven for Deaf children who desire for full communication access using ASL. Those oral approach philosophies should remain at mainstream programs and should not be brought into ISD. Those committee, who are recently selected, have a strong philosophy towards cued speech and there is absolutely no committee representation of ASL philosophy on the team. This is considered biased and unequal. ISD will continue to suffer in the hands of audism.

We ask that you take corrective actions by revisiting the committee selection and appoint those recommended above. This will create a balanced team in superintendent search process.

Sincerely,

Tamera Gaudet-Doody, Task Force Leader

Cc: Task Force Team